



**LIST OF ATTORNEYS  
SPECIALIZING IN CRIMINAL LAW  
IN THE MUNICH CONSULAR DISTRICT  
(April 2015)**

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Königinstrasse 5  
80539 München  
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Tel: (089) 2888-0 (from within Germany)  
Fax: (089) 2809998  
Internet: <http://munich.usconsulate.gov>  
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## About this list

The following is to assist you in selecting a private attorney, should you wish to retain one. The American Consulate General, Munich, Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the U.S. Consulate. Names are listed alphabetically and by geographic location, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. The information in the list on professional credentials, areas of expertise and language ability are provided directly by the lawyers. You may receive additional information about the individuals by contacting the local bar association:

Rechtsanwaltskammer  
Tal 33  
80336 München  
Tel: (089) 5329440  
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E-mail: [info@rak-muenchen.de](mailto:info@rak-muenchen.de)  
[www.rak-muenchen.de](http://www.rak-muenchen.de)

## Some Things You Should Know About Retaining an Attorney

German lawyers are not as active in court as American lawyers, due to the prominent role of the presiding judge. Your defense counsel should, however, argue your case for you and try to convince the court to interpret the facts and apply the law in a manner favorable to you. Your German attorney is your primary source of advice. Ask him/her any questions you have about the case and listen carefully to the advice you receive, for he/she is trained in German criminal law and has the duty to defend you to the best of his/her ability.

## Attorney Fees

☞ **Legal services will be at your own expense.**

If you have no funds, see the section on *Pflichtverteidiger* (court-appointed attorney) below.

The State Department cannot provide funds for employing a lawyer, but will contact your family or friends on your behalf, to request their financial assistance.

Attorney fees are regulated by a state-approved schedule of fees. The attorney will adhere to these tariffs if the retainer fee has not been specially discussed. In cases of complicated and time-consuming proceedings (for example, major offenses or crimes), the attorney, in order to cover excess time spent beyond normal services, will suggest an individual contract concerning the cost of his services. This contract must be signed by the client in order to be valid and binding. The attorney usually will request a down payment from his client at the beginning of the proceedings, and will account for it at their termination. Once you have signed a power of attorney, you are obligated to pay your lawyer's bill for services rendered to date, even if you change attorneys. You should know that the lawyer may charge for additional services that are not related to your criminal case, as well as frequent and lengthy telephone conversations with your relatives/friends.

## **Selection of Defense Attorney**

### **Private Attorney (*Wahlverteidiger*)**

According to paragraph 138 of the German Penal Code the defense attorney must either be licensed to practice before German courts or be a law professor at a German university.

#### **A criminal defense attorney is mandatory in the following cases**

- If the initial trial will be held at the *Landgericht* (Regional Court) or *Oberlandesgericht* (Higher Regional Court);
- if the accused is charged with a felony (*Verbrechen*),
- if the proceedings may result in withdrawal of a professional license;
- if pre-trial detention is being enforced;
- if an expert opinion must be prepared regarding the mental condition of the accused, which might lead to the accused's admission to a mental institution;
- if the court orders the prisoner's admission to a mental or medical treatment facility;
- or if a previously appointed defense attorney is dismissed from the proceedings by a decision of the court.

In other cases not specified above, at the request of the accused or automatically, the court will appoint a defense attorney if the severity of the offense or the legal complexities involved make it appear warranted that legal assistance to the accused is required [in a legal sense], or if it is otherwise obvious that the accused is not capable of handling his own defense.

### **Court-appointed Attorney (*Pflichtverteidiger*)**

A prisoner in pre-trial detention can either hire a private attorney or receive a court appointed attorney. A German court-appointed attorney is not the same as an American 'public defender'. Any private attorney can be appointed as a public defender. Therefore you may choose an attorney and, if the attorney agrees to defend you on a court appointment basis, you should give his name to the judge. If you do not choose an attorney, the court may appoint an attorney of its choice.

If you need an interpreter to communicate with your attorney, the attorney should apply for one. The costs will be borne by the German government.

If you are convicted and sentenced, the *Justizkasse* will, at the end of the entire proceeding, send a notice to you to pay for all costs incurred, e.g., court costs, costs for the interpreter, the witnesses, translations, and also for the court-appointed attorney.

### **For incarcerated Americans:**

Some prisons have preprinted postcards with which you can contact your lawyer and ask him/her to visit.

☞ Please see the booklet entitled "Information for U.S. Citizens Imprisoned in Germany" for more details. This Handbook contains further information about selecting legal counsel, private attorneys and court-appointed attorneys.

## ANSBACH

### **Christoph SCHMITT**

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Webpage: [www.rechtsanwalt-schmitt.de](http://www.rechtsanwalt-schmitt.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Good; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Würzburg, Germany

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 9 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law , Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Commercial Law, Auto/Accidents

## AUGSBURG

### **Gerhard DECKER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** good; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Augsburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1978

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Auto/Accidents

### **Ernst LAUFFER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** Universities of Munich & Speyer, Germany

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1976

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Damages, Labor Relations, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

**Michael SCHEERSCHMIDT**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** Italian

**Educational Background:** University Munich

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1977

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Estates, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents

**BAD KISSINGEN**

**Dr. Gerhard W. STAAB**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French

**Educational Background:** University Munich and Würzburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1975

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Auto/Accidents

**BAYREUTH**

**Martina MEISEN-GOOLEY**

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Webpage: [www.kanzlei-emc.de](http://www.kanzlei-emc.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University

**Law Background:** Since 1989 self-employed lawyer

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents

## GRAFENWÖHR

### **Jutta S. CARRINGTON-Conerly, LL.M.**

Master of Laws

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Webpage: [www.carrington.de](http://www.carrington.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French (very basic)

**Educational Background:** German law degree, Master of Laws, LL.M.

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1985

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Estates, Auto/Accidents

## MEMMINGEN

### **Dr. Sybille THIEL**

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Webpage: [www.bogdahn-kollegen.de](http://www.bogdahn-kollegen.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Good; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Würzburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 2001

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Auto/Accidents

## MUNICH

### **Dr. Alexander DEICHSTETTER, LL.M.**

Fachanwalt für Strafrecht

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Augsburg and London, UK

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 13 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Auto/Accidents

### **Christian GERBER**

Fachanwalt für Strafrecht

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French

**Educational Background:** University

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1999 at Kremer, Höck & Kollegen

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Narcotics

### **Hartmut GIRSHAUSEN**

Fachanwalt für Strafrecht

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Mainz

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1995

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Dr. Wolfgang KREUZER, LL.M.**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French

**Educational Background:** University Munich; Lausanne; Berkeley, CA

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1973

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Dr. Werner LEITNER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French, Spanish

**Educational Background:** Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, Law traineeship in Chicago, USA;

**Law Background:** Has practiced law as a defense lawyer since 1989 and as an accredited specialist for criminal law since 1997

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Prof. Dr. Eckhart MÜLLER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent, **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Erlangen; Munich and University Passau (Honorarprofessor)

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 37 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** Spanish and French

**Educational Background:** University LMU Munich, Université de Lausanne, Master of Law Trinity College Dublin, studies of the Spanish language at the Academia Hispano-Americana (Mexico)

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 8 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Thomas PFISTER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** good; **Other Languages:** Italian

**Educational Background:** University Munich

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 25 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Dr. Peter SCHNEIDER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French, Spanish

**Educational Background:** University Regensburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1981

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Narcotics

**Dr. Karl SIDHU, LL.M.**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** Law studies in Berlin, Master Program (Law) in the Netherlands, Bar Training in New York

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 10 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, specialization in white collar crime law (defense, compliance and investigations).

**Jörg SKLEBITZ**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Munich

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 20 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Narcotics

**Dr. Florian UFER**

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Webpage: [www.Ufer-Knauer.de](http://www.Ufer-Knauer.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** French, Spanish, Italian

**Educational Background:** Studied sociology and psychology at Kenyon College, Ohio in 1990/1991, studied law at the University Munich

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 2000

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

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**Marco VON SCHIRACH**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Good; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** criminal law

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 2008

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**NÜRNBERG**

**Jochen HORN**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** good; **Other Languages:** -

**Educational Background:** University Regensburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 16 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law

**Dr. Günther KREUZER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** Italian, French

**Educational Background:** University of Erlangen, Germany

**Law Background:** Has practiced law for 38 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Banking/Financial, Commercial/Business Law, Foreign Investments, Marketing Agreements, Patents/Trademarks/Copyrights, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Contracts, Transportation Law, Corporations, Foreign Claims, Estates, Taxes, Labor Relations, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

## REGENSBURG

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Webpage: [www.ra-hofmann-regensburg.de](http://www.ra-hofmann-regensburg.de)

**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Good; **Other Languages:** French

**Educational Background:** University Regensburg

**Law Background:** Has practiced law more than 25 years

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Criminal Law, Family Law, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Banking/Financial, Commercial/Business Law, Marketing Agreements, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Contracts, Transportation Law, ms, Estates, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents

## ROSENHEIM

### **Dr. Ernst BACHMANN**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** Italian, Russian (fluent), Chinese, Arabic (limited), Spanish, French (good)

**Educational Background:** University Munich

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1974

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Commercial/Business Law, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Commercial Law, Contracts, Foreign Claims, Labor Relations, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

## WOLFRATSHAUSEN

### **Karl BRUNNHUBER**

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**Ability to Read/Speak English:** Fluent; **Other Languages:** Spanish and French

**Educational Background:** University Munich, 1984 internship at law firm in Fairfax County, VA

**Law Background:** Has practiced law since 1986

**Cases Willing to Handle:** Family Law, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Estates